

Students

a. Promotion of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students (5133.1)

Because the promotion of students from the fourth grade to the fifth grade and from the eighth grade to the ninth grade is affected by law, this policy applies to such promotions. Other district policies relating to the promotion of students apply if they are not inconsistent with the policy. No student may be promoted from the fourth grade (4th) to the fifth grade (5th) or from the eighth grade (8th) to the ninth grade (9th) unless the student satisfies the criteria for promotion in this policy.

The District expectation is to intervene at the earliest sign of an achievement concern. Retention is a last option for students and should only be considered in the rarest cases. Parents/guardians should be made aware of concerns as early in the year possible through a formal Student Services Team (SST) process. Documented interventions and results must be shared with parents/guardians and reported on any rendition request. No student should spend more than one additional year in the primary grades, nor be retained more than two grades at the elementary level. No student should spend more than four years in a middle school.

The following criteria are to be considered in determining whether to promote a student from the fourth grade (4th) to the fifth grade (5th) or from the eighth grade (8th) to ninth grade (9th).

No student may be promoted from the fourth grade (4th) to the fifth grade (5th) or from the eighth grade (8th) to the ninth grade (9th) unless students have demonstrated competency in three of the following academic areas: Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, and one of the three must be either Reading or Mathematics. Competency in each area can be demonstrated in either of the following ways:

1. The student has attained at least a basic score or rating in each of the subject areas tested on the state examination;
2. The student has achieved the instructional objectives set for his/her grade level and demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit them to move ahead on the educational program of the next grade, which may be determined, in part, by

teacher recommendations who provide direct instruction to the student, which will be based solely on the student's academic performance;

3. The approved district assessments may be used to determine the eligibility for promotion if additional academic performance data is necessary.

In the event a student fails to meet the competency requirement in three of the identified areas, the school principal will conduct an academic review considering:

- Student Services Team (SST) process and results.
- Teacher recommendations, which shall be based solely on the pupil's academic performance.
- Counselor recommendations.
- Student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Limited English Proficient (LEP) or 504 (Learning Plan) - were the goals of the plan met?
- English Language Learner (ELL) and the impact on achievement.
- Alternative assessments - is there additional documentation or achievement performance that should be considered?
- Previous retentions - how would a repeated retention affect academic achievement?
- Social and emotional maturity.
- Chronological age.
- Other pertinent information.

The above are not rigid guidelines. Each case must be considered on its merits for the benefit of the individual student.

The directing principal and the Student Services Team (SST) will review all student data related to promotion and retention and will forward their recommendation, via the Retention Request form, to the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services will consult with the Chief Academic Officer to review all retention requests. Individuals may appeal a promotion/retention decision, in writing, to the Director of Student Services/Chief Academic Officer. Appeals can only be based on procedural concerns and, if upheld, must result in a repeat of the process. The Director of Student Services' /Chief Academic Officer's decision will be final.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by the directing principal regarding the promotion or retention decision of their child.

Students

Mandatory summer school will be required of all retained students. At the completion of summer school, the Director of Student Services and the Chief Academic Officer will review each retained student's progress for promotion determination. Decisions will be based on the students' academic performance while attending summer school, as well as performance on district assessments administered during summer school.

Middle school students recommend for retention may be required to repeat the basic subject (math, social studies, English) failed, or may be retained in the total grade level. Students repeating a basic subject will report the subject for a long enough period to gain minimum competency.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statute 118.33(6) (a), 118.13, 118.24(2)(a), 118.30(1)

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